

Fall 8-15-2000

ENG 4950-001: Literary History and Biography

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English 4950: **Literary History and Bibliography**
fall 2000

Instructor: Richard Sylvia

Office: 321 Coleman

Office Hours: M 10:00 am - 12:00; TR 2:00 - 3:00 pm; and by appt.

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Texts: Abrams, et al., The Norton Anthology of English Literature, 7th ed., 2 vol.

Bradley, et al., The American Tradition in Literature, 6th ed., 2 vol.

Course Goals and Objectives: Required of all English majors, this course is an overview of the major developments in English and, with much less coverage, American Literature, from their beginnings to the present century. The goal is to develop a sense of the major tenets of each literary period, and to see also the relationships that pertain between literary periods. To do this in a single semester, we will have to move at a fast pace, so be prepared to work hard preparing for each class meeting. Class time will be devoted to my occasional lectures on political, social, and philosophical issues, but more frequently to the discussion of assigned readings. Since this course is also an opportunity for you to demonstrate the reading, writing, and research skills you have developed as an English major during the last few years, we will spend some class time discussing your out of class work on a series of writing assignments/problems that I have devised to deepen your experience of literary developments from period to period.

Course Requirements and Grading:

careful preparation of the readings as assigned
regular participation in class discussions -- 10%
several (perhaps as many as ten) brief writing assignments -- 30%
a mid-term examination -- 30%
a final examination -- 30%

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

English Department Statement on Plagiarism: "Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism – 'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's own original work' (Random House Dictionary) – has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office."

Tentative Schedule

Old English Period (500 - 1066)

Aug. 22: course introduction

Aug. 24: period background lecture; Beowulf

Aug. 29: Beowulf

Aug. 31: Beowulf, "The Dream of the Rood"; "The Wanderer"

Middle English Period (1066 - 1500)

Sept. 5: period background lecture; Popular Ballads (2882-2888): "Lord Randall," "Barbara Allan," "The Wife of Usher's Well," "The Three Ravens," "Sir Patrick Spens," "The Bonny Earl of Murry"; Piers Plowman (317-325)

Sept. 7: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Sept. 12: Chaucer, The Canterbury Tales: "The Miller's Prologue and Tale"

Sept. 14: Everyman or Kempe, The Book of Margery Kempe

The Renaissance (1500 - 1660)

Sept. 19: period background lecture; Marlowe, The Tragical History of Dr. Faustus

Sept. 21: Shakespeare, King Lear I, II

Sept. 26: Shakespeare, King Lear III, IV, V

Sept. 28: Spenser, The Faerie Queene Book I, Canto 1

Oct. 3: selected love sonnets from Wyatt, Surrey, Sidney, Spenser, and Shakespeare

Oct. 5: Donne, "The Flea," "Going to Bed," "Good Friday, 1613"; Jonson, "Inviting a Friend to Dinner," "To Penshurst," "Song: To Celia"

Oct. 10: Milton, Paradise Lost I, II

Oct. 12: Milton, Paradise Lost IV, IX

Early American Literature (1660 - 1800)

Oct. 17: Bradley 3-10; Edwards, Personal Narrative; Franklin, The Autobiography

Oct. 19: **mid-term exam**

The Restoration and Eighteenth Century (1660-1780)

Oct. 24: Gay, The Beggar's Opera

Oct. 26: Swift, Gulliver's Travels Part I

Oct. 31: Pope, The Rape of the Lock

The Romantic Period (1789 - 1830)

Nov. 2: period background lecture; Wordsworth, "Tintern Abbey," "Ode: Intimations of Immortality"

Nov. 7: Shelley, "Ode to the West Wind"; Keats, "Eve of St. Agnes"

The Victorian Period (1830 - 1901)

Nov. 9: period background lecture; Carlyle, Past and Present; Mill, Autobiography; Arnold, Culture and Anarchy

Nov. 14: Tennyson, "The Kraken," "Mariana," "The Lady of Shalott," "The Lotus-Eaters," "Ulysses"; Browning, "Porphyria's Lover," "Soliloquy of the Spanish Cloister," "My Last Duchess"

Nov. 16: Dante Gabriel Rossetti, "The Blessed Damozel," The House of Life; Christina Rossetti, "Goblin Market"

Nov. 21, 23: Thanksgiving break

American Literature (1800 - 1900)

Nov. 28: Bradley 413-419; Emerson, "Nature"; Thoreau, "Civil Disobedience," "Life Without Principle"

Nov. 30: Hawthorne, "Wakefield"; Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher"

Modern British and American Literature (1900 - 1950)

Dec. 5: Hardy, "Hap," "The Imprecipient," "Neutral Tones," "The Darkling Thrush," "During Wind and Rain"

Dec. 7: Bradley, 66-69; Whitman, "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"; Dickinson, poems (132-139)

Dec. 13 - 17: **final exam**; date and time to be announced